

Independent Living Advisory Council (ILAC)

BlindSight Delaware

Meeting Minutes, December 11, 2018

2915 Newport Gap Pike

Wilmington DE 19808

**Present Attendees:** Wayne Marsh, Council Chairperson; Patti Addison, Council Vice-Chairperson; Melodye May, Division for the Visually Impaired; Jean May, Division for the Visually Impaired; Jill Morrison, Division for the Visually Impaired; Aderonke Koya, Independent Living Services Intern; Suzanne Howell, Council Member; Mary Marsh, Guest; Ken Rolph, Council Member; Katherine Bottner, Council Member; and Debra Mills-Joe, Division for the Visually Impaired.

Call-in via telephone: Elisha Jenkins, Division for the Visually Impaired; Carol King-Ries, Council Member; and Lynn Snyder, Council Member; and Deb Bradl, Division for the Visually Impaired.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called by Melodye May at 11:30 AM.

**Minutes of September 2018 Meeting**

Melodye May were tabled for another date. Wayne Marsh motioned to approve the delay and Patti Addison seconded the motion.

**New Business:**

Director's Report-The Joint Finance Committee meeting will be on February 19, 2019 at 12:30 PM at Legislative Hall in Dover, Delaware.

There are no updates from the Sunset Committee.

## Old Business

### Business Enterprise Program:

The BEP is engaged with the Blind Vendors Committee, Office of Management and Budget, for a micro-market at the Carvel State Building. This will be the first micro-market in state offices.

The BEP and the Division of Public Health held taste-testing events throughout the state. The results from the taste-testing locations was that the majority of those surveyed indicated they enjoyed the healthy vending alternative options. The Healthy Vending analysis from November 2018 versus November 2017 is an approximate 4% increase in sales from last year.

### Vocational Rehabilitation:

The Division will sponsor an Open-House at the Porter State Service Center located at 509 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street on December 5, 2018. This will be the beginning of a partnership thru the Governor's initiative, with other state entities to bring more services to the city of Wilmington. One of the Division's Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors and Business consultants will be on-site at the Porter State Service Center every Wednesday to provide employment information, community resources, and other support services needed by the visually impaired population in the community. The Open House provided the residents of Wilmington and State Service Center staff with an opportunity to learn what services are offered thru the Division for the Visually Impaired.

### Education and Orientation & Mobility:

Congratulations are going out to Smyrna High School junior, Matt, who was selected to be a Student Presenter at the annual Delaware Transition Conference.

On November 20, 2018, there were (7) Education students that were given the opportunity to show their independence in traveling and self-advocacy at Christiana Mall. These transition students' tasks were to make their own travel reservations for both to and from the Mall, make a purchase while at the mall, meet at a specified time and place for lunch, and then return home. These exercises are conducted in order to better prepare students for transition from high school to life beyond graduation.

### **Communication and Outreach:**

The filming of the Vocational Rehabilitation marketing video has been completed. The filming sites were: the Milford State Service Center Annex, the Biggs Building on the Herman Holloway Campus in New Castle, and the Carvel State Office Building in Wilmington. The cast consisted of five consumers, four staff members, and one vendor as part of the interviewing process. The draft is expected to be completed within several weeks.

DVI created a one page information sheet for the Early Start to Supported Employment Program and a BEP Fact Sheet.

### **General:**

Satisfaction Surveys- DVI has developed six surveys (one for each Program Unit and a general agency overview) to determine satisfaction rates. However, over the past two months, only 49 of the 624 consumers on the DVI registry have returned feedback.

Carol King-Ries and Patti Addison inquired about the next meeting date(s) for the Joint Finance Committee. They both would like to attend and bring along other members from the Peer

Support Groups, to show strength in numbers and to help support our Programs.

### Old Business

Strategies for cutting cost for devices were examined.

- (a) To place a cap on the yearly amount that can be spent on one consumer.
- (b) Use a sliding scale.
- (c) Other resources: use the BOLD Program and DATI or contact the local Lion's Club

Jean May suggested that she participate in the next SILC meeting to educate the SILC members on what ILAC does. The website address for SILC is [www.desilc.org](http://www.desilc.org). SILC meets every other even month. The next meeting date is December 12, 2018 @ Michaels from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Aderonke Koya- an intern with the DVI Independent living Services Unit, presented to the ILAC Committee a suggestion for Meal Delivery Services Plans for the elderly and visually impaired.

Some of those suggestions were:

- (1.) Hello Fresh
- (2.) Home Chef
- (3.) Blue Apron

Mrs. Koya stated that the meals are all pre-measured (seasonings, portion sizes and directions for preparation). All

orders can be customized for the consumer. The only two downfalls are they are not yet accessible to the visually impaired and the shipping can be expensive. It was suggested that this info be put into the DVI Newsletter.

Patti Addison attended the VA Hospital Peer Support group in Elsmere which started out with four members and is now up to 17 members.

Another new site for Peer Support Group is in the Summit in Pike Creek Senior Living Facility.

The Peer Support members will be compiling another cookbook and should be completed by September 2019 in large print.

**Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

**Adjournment:**

Wayne Marsh then called to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 PM.

Patti Addison seconded the motion.